

**Request for Concept Papers**  
**Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities**

**I. Purpose Statement**

The Democracy and Governance Office for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking innovative applications from qualified non-governmental organizations capable of providing assistance to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs) in development cooperation, to find solutions to break down existing as well as potential barriers and to ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities in USAID activities and programs. As further described below, the funds should be used to support projects and programs that will increase the participation of people with disabilities within the programs and strategies of USAID/Paraguay. Programs and activities that could be adapted to better include people with disabilities could include, but is not limited to, programs in education, health, government, civil society building, rule of law, HIV/AIDS, and employment opportunities.

USAID/Washington expects to fund individual programs in an amount ranging from \$20,000 to \$300,000. Concept papers will be considered for “one time grants”, with no expectations for follow-on funding. Applications should be from qualified (capable of fulfilling USAID requirements vis-à-vis resource, financial and accounting management) entities, such as private, non-profit organizations (or for-profit companies willing to forego profits), including private voluntary organizations, universities, research organizations, professional associations, and relevant special interest associations. Entities applying as a coalition should name a leading partner among them for administrative, programmatic and financial reporting purposes. Awards will be administered in accordance with USAID Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-governmental Recipients.

**II. Background**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 10% of any population has some form of disability. Therefore, it is estimated that 600 million people throughout the world have a disability and 400 million of those are living within developing nations. The World Bank estimates that people with disabilities make up 20% of the poorest of the poor with one out of every five people living on less than a \$1 a day. People with disabilities, however, have historically been marginalized from traditional development cooperation activities due to discrimination or inadvertent barriers, which have resulted in further disparity to the access of education, employment, health care services and civil society integration, among others. Furthermore, in the past, the programs that have existed for people with disabilities tended to be separate programs rather than mainstreaming people with disabilities into existing traditional development cooperation activities. Although it may be necessary at times to develop separate programs that are only designed to address the needs of people with disabilities, it is also extremely important to find innovative ways to include people with disabilities in general development cooperation in order to ensure a wider variety of services.

In September 1997, USAID adopted a policy that advanced a clear vision and framework for the Agency's efforts in the area of disability. The policy states that USAID

will not discriminate against people with disabilities and will work to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in USAID-funded programs and activities. The policy also calls on USAID missions to reach out to partners, host country counterparts, and other donors to lead a collaborative effort to end discrimination against, and promote equal opportunity for, persons with disabilities.

### **III. Areas of Interest**

USAID encourages creativity and innovative approaches in the design of programs proposed under this request. Applicants are free to submit concept papers that focus on one or more of the objectives identified below. Moreover, activities should be complimentary to Mission and Washington Operating Unit's strategic objectives.

**Within the selected result area of increasing inclusive development programs and practices within USAID Missions/Washington operating units, the following objectives have been identified:**

- 1) Promoting the participation of people with disabilities in the democratic process and elections.
- 2) Promoting the inclusion of participation of people with disabilities in HIV/AIDS awareness raising and education programs.
- 3) Fostering the inclusion of children with disabilities in education programs.
- 4) Increasing employment and economic opportunities for people with disabilities.
- 5) Building the capacity of humanitarian relief workers and first responders to better incorporate the needs of people with disabilities in all disaster relief planning.
- 6) Improving laws and policies within country that better reflect the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Note: as part of one or more of the objectives mentioned above, proposals may also aim at building capacity of disabled person's organizations (DPOs) to effectively participate, manage and implement inclusive programs for people with disabilities. For example:

- 1) Improving the financial management, human resources, quality assurance, strategic planning, fundraising, leadership and coordination of DPOs.
- 2) Building advocacy skills of DPOs to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in programs funded by USAID, host government and other donors.

### **IV. Concept Paper Process**

Submissions must clearly state the objectives and the expected results of the program within the life of the funding period; identify the local counterparts/implementation partners; and define an implementation and sustainability plan with a proposed time frame and budget.

A review panel consisting of USAID personnel will make selections of concept papers submitted and recommend to USAID/Washington for further assessment and final selection.

**If you are interested in applying for these disability funds, please submit concept papers not exceeding ten (10) pages, *in English, no later than February 8, 2008*, to USAID/Paraguay, Ref.: People with Disabilities Concept Paper, Juan de**

Salazar 364, Asunción, Paraguay. **No applications will be considered beyond this date.** Please send questions or clarifications in writing via e-mail to [icaceres@usaid.gov](mailto:icaceres@usaid.gov).